

Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Spring Term 25-26 Newsletter Issue: 19 Friday 6th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to Mrs Tolley and the First Federation Trust Central Team for their hard work in preparation for this week's Health and Safety review. I'm pleased to share that the it went well, as expected, and we will continue to build on this strong approach.

Well done to Mrs Wheaton and the team for a very positive Phonics review, which highlighted good pupil progress using the Read Write Inc approach – a great reflection of the consistency in our early reading provision.

A big thank you to the PFA for the delivery of our new cooker – we're really looking forward to using it in upcoming DT lessons.

A reminder that next week is the final week of half term, and Safer Internet Day is on Tuesday 10th February. We will be teaching online safety in school and encourage families to continue these conversations at home. For younger children:

"If something online worries you, tell a grown-up you trust."

For older children (Y5/6):

"Not everyone online is who they say they are – don't share personal information or photos, and tell a trusted adult if anything makes you uncomfortable."

Useful resources for parents:

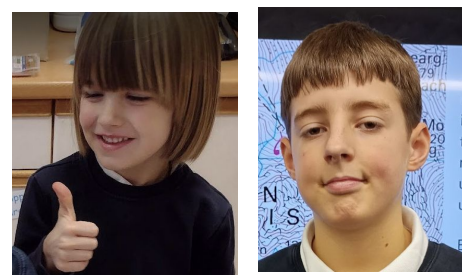
- 👉 <https://www.internetmatters.org>
- 👉 <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Thank you for your continued support.
Warm regards, Sal Davies

Our core value this term is:

Service

Our golden apple winners this week are....



The winning house this week:

Silver Birch

W/B 09/02/26:

Monday

Breakfast club
Lego & Games ASC: 3.15-4.30

Tuesday

PFA Pancake Morning
Breakfast club: 8-8.30
Forest School Sessions
Bikes+Trikes ASC: 3.15-4.30

Wednesday

PFA AGM 2pm
Breakfast club: 8-8.30
PE Lessons
Sports Skills ASC: 3.15-4.30

Book Fayre

Thursday

Breakfast club: 8-8.30
Creative ASC: 3.15-4.30

Book Fayre

Friday

Breakfast Club: 8-8.30
Chromebooks ASC: 3.15-4.30
PFA School Disco

Please like, comment and share on our social media posts to spread the word of our wonderful school. Click below to be taken to them.



Quote of the week:



St. Mary's CE Primary Academy, Chard Street, Thorncombe, Somerset, TA20 4NE

Phone: [01460 30535](tel:0146030535) Email: office@stmarysthorncombe.dorset.sch.uk

Website: <https://www.stmarysthorncombe.dorset.sch.uk/>



Class News from this Week!

Little Acorns - Claire Stockford

This week I have been blown away with how amazing Little Acorns have been. They have all shown such great kindness towards each other, taking turns, inviting others to join with their play, it has been so lovely! Little Acorns have really enjoyed the mud kitchen, working and roleplaying, creating some very wonderful recipes like milkshakes, cakes and so much more. It's so amazing to see their imaginations come to life during their play. Little Acorns have also enjoyed our gross motor sessions, playing games, showing their impressive dance moves and showing fantastic turn taking skills. For our cooking sessions this week we made wrap pizzas. The children showed great interest in making these and the pizzas looked delicious. Have a wonderful weekend.

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

Children have had their phonics assessments this week and it always makes me so proud to see their progress. A huge well done to our children on the phonics scheme who have worked so hard with their reading!

In Geography, Year 1 and 2 learned about the weather in different parts of the world, comparing Kenya and Greenland and how location affects climate. Year 3 explored the impacts of tourism and how people overcome related challenges.

Reception's story of the week is The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza! which teaches children about hard work, responsibility and the importance of helping others.

In Music we continued to learn the glockenspiel (Year R-2) and recorders (Year 3) The children have become much more confident with these and it has definitely improved over time!

Have a lovely weekend.

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor

In Maths year 3 and 4 have been working on perimeter, they had some tricky problems to solve and have done brilliantly! Year 5 have been learning how to divide fractions, they have worked hard understanding the method, well done! Year 6 have been working through practice SATs papers and have done us proud with their attitude.

In RE years 3, 4, 5 and 6 learnt about the charity Christian Aid and how they help different communities and people around the world. After their research, the children made leaflets to showcase their learning.

In English, the children have been learning about balanced arguments and even took part in a class debate - demonstrating great listening skills. Their art this week was linked to the 'Big Birdwatch' and the children created beautiful pictures of starlings, using watercolours and pastels!

Over the next week...

- Hear your child read at least 3 times each week. Please record this in their reading records/BoomReader. Parents - children are never too old to have a story read to them. They gain so much from this special time with you.
- Practise your multiplication and division facts using TTRS or other resources.

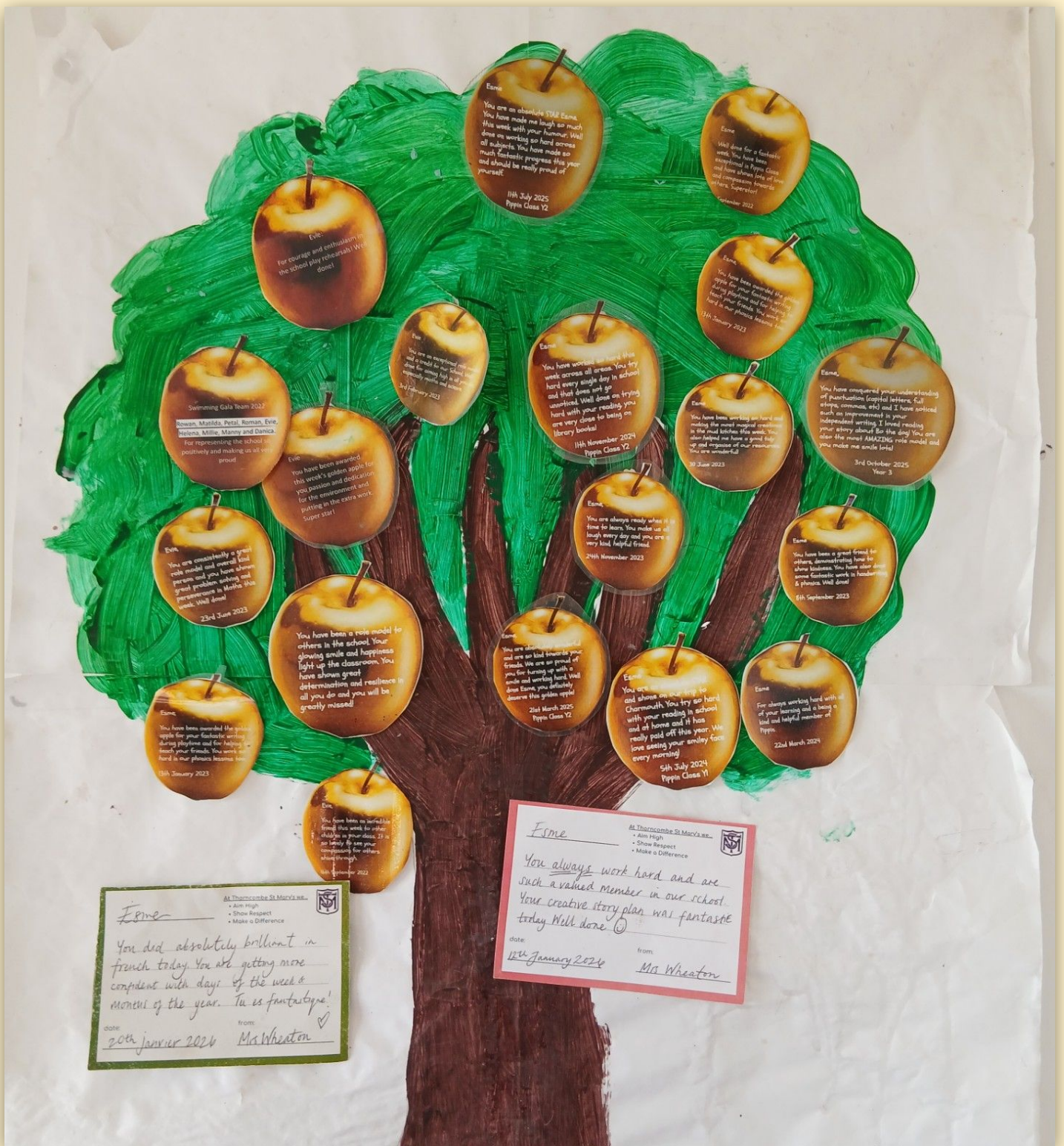
Year 1	2s, 5s, 10s
Year 2	2s, 5s, 10s
Year 3	3s, 4s, 8s
Year 4, 5 and 6	all multiplication tables up to 12x12

Children learn
4,000 to 12,000
words per year
through reading.

Celebrating Achievements

One of our children has created their own special tree to display all of their Golden Apple awards. We think this is an absolutely wonderful idea and love seeing them take so much pride in their achievements!

If this inspires your child to do the same we would love to see.





RSPB School Birdwatch

On Tuesday, our staffroom became a 'Nature Watch Window' to quietly observe birds in our Wildlife Garden without disturbing them. The whole school split into four groups, taking turns to learn more about bird identification and contribute valuable data to the RSPB's national conservation efforts.. A huge thank you to Miss Davis for volunteering her time to facilitate this.



Unlike the colourful males, female Chaffinches are yellowish brown, with a white shoulder patch and stripe on the wing.

Two Robbins and one Coal Tit visited our new bird feeding station and one female Chaffinch fed on fallen seeds below.



Other 'landed' sightings in the one hour: six Starlings, two Woodpigeons, one Magpie and one male Blackbird.

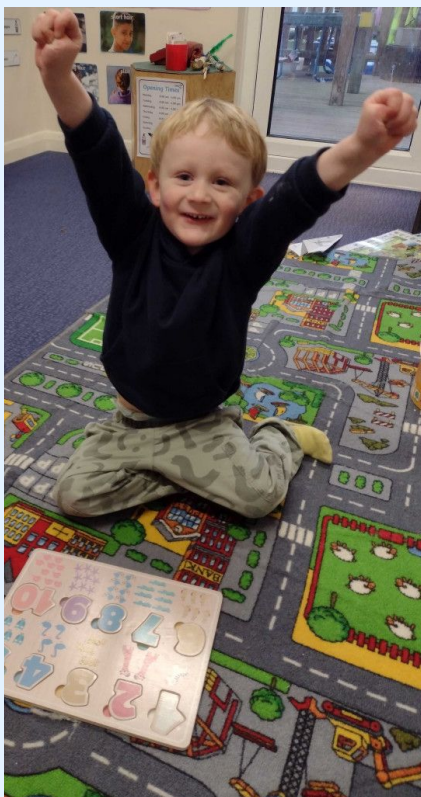
What a lovely week!

Starling Watercolours

To link our birdwatching with creativity, children in Orchard Class took inspiration from The Lost Words' Starling poem imagery to produce artworks using watercolour pastel resist and colour application. Together, their starlings form a wonderful class 'murmuration'



What a lovely week!



What a lovely week!

Christian Aid

Christian Aid help people by giving food and water as they can't provide all of it themselves because all of them have to be fed.

Education/building

Christian Aid helps countries that don't have much money by building hospitals, schools and houses because they don't have enough money.

Emergency Situations

Christian Aid helps children who are in severe pain and help people stay safe in war and conflict and adults need help because they look after everyone



What does Christian Aid do?

Christian Aid protects families by providing food and water and much more. They enable communities to rebuild a better future. They respond to injuries and heal them. The Christian Aid protects them from wars and fights. They help people claim the rights they should have in their life.

How does the work of the charity link to Jesus teachings?

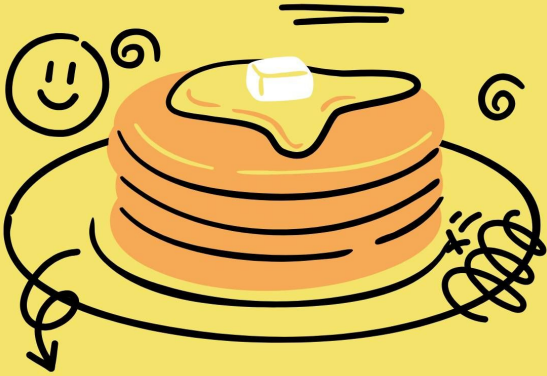
Christians try to make the world like God's kingdom by spreading the Gospel and saving the world from extinction. They teach people about his death and resurrection and how to love God. They tell people to love their neighbors and forgive everyone with their heart.

The parables of Jesus

The parables of Jesus are the parable and the secret. The parable of the good sower tells you that God will invite you to his kingdom but he won't keep us from the kingdom. The parable of the sower shows that don't blame people and that they will be punished.

name people
with

YOU'RE INVITED TO
**CELEBRATE (AN EARLY)
SHROVE TUESDAY!**



TUESDAY 10TH FEBURARY
8AM - 8.30AM

AT SCHOOL - PARENTS - CARERS - SIBLINGS
ALL WELCOME TO JOIN US

£1.50 PER PANCAKE AND JUICE
VARIOUS TOPPINGS AVAILABLE



FRIDAY 13TH FEB | 5.30-6.30PM

**School
Disco**

£1 ENTRY

**PLUS SPENDING MONEY FOR...
TUCK SHOP • GLOWSTICKS • GLITTER TATTOOS •
HOMEMADE CANDY-FLOSS**

RECEPTION PARENTS TO STAY PLEASE

Mental Health Support Services:

[Dorset Support](#)

[Somerset Support](#)

[Devon Support](#)

Safeguarding Information

Mrs Sol Davies
Acting Head of School
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Merryn Wheaton
EYFS Lead and Pippin
Teacher
Deputy DSL



Our child protection policy can be found [here](#).